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26, November 1998

FCC MAIL ROOM "In the matter of 1998 biennial Regulatory Review--Amendment  
at 97 of the Commission Amateur Service Rules, FCC WT  
Docket 98-143."

FCC SECRETARY, Magalie Roman Salas  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 "M" Street N.W.  
Room 222  
Washington D.C. 20554

Dear Sirs,

Grade school age children, who are the future of Amateur Radio, are being lost in the shuffle and frenzy of fast track rulemaking that is obviously dominated by special interest groups. Who is speaking for our youth?

The present novice written test is difficult enough without placing an even higher hurdle in their path of entry to ham radio. In this "Information Age", why is it too hard for adults to make provisions for their needs by making a license class suitable to their age? Streamlining sounds like another fad that is not thought or pondered to its ultimate result of throwing the babes out with the bathwater. Nobody can convince me that the FCC cannot manage a data base that could include hundreds of license classes. Are there any adults that can remember being a Second Grader? I am being as forceful as possible with these comments. Please have a care.

We have found that some of the vocabulary is beyond their development and it takes time to explain the meanings, although this is expected for technical terms. Also math that an adult can be reasonably expected to know has to be taught. Examples are decimals, division, calculator use, and the metric system.

Most people learn better when it is a combination of study and hands on experience. Parents cannot be expected to purchase amateur gear without a reasonable premise of success in the amateur testing process. We had a radio class and not one of the students had access to a working station. This resulted in a high dropout rate. When one considers the volume of material for the test, it is not surprising the students felt overwhelmed.

Please don't forget our future: the youth of today. I have a radical idea for our operating practices. One weekend a month open up all frequencies on a band to all license classes so the old timers can mix it up with the newcomers and share their knowledge. WE could call it technology weekend. It would supplant some of the mindless contests that exist on our bands.

Sincerely,

*John E. Grimes*  
John E. Grimes, WA9JBM

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P.S. Just a note from the wife. All of our children are good students in school. Most report cards come home with A's and B's with an occasional C . Children in today's society have a lot of activity choices. With this amount of activity a commitment is required of the adults for the youths successful entry into amateur radio. See enclosed letters from the children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda A. Grimes". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Linda A. Grimes, KA9PLP

November, 20, 1998

Dear FCC (To whom it may concern),

Hello, I am a 13 year old Technician Plus and studying for my general class. I am against deleting the novice class. I spent 9 months studying for it. It has been my ticket to ham radio. I am involved in Boy Scouts-Star rank, Soccer, School, Band, piano lessons+practice each night, clubs through school (snowflake, peer mediation, and video club.) I also enjoy computers, books and technical gizmos. We also go to a church 50 miles from home, so we don't get home till 1 in the afternoon. I also played tackle football. I am also in swimming lessons. I also have to find time for all of the other normal kid stuff (sleep overs, time together, theme parks, vacations and my job [library assistant]) And above all of this, time with my family. (Whether it is fun or woodstacking and mowing and not fun stuff.)

Sincerely,

*Eric Grimes*

Eric Grimes  
KB9TNN

November 21, 1998

Dear FCC,

Hello, I am a 11 year old Novice and studying for my Technician Plus. I spent 9 months studying for it. I am involved in Boy Scouts and my rank is first class. I also go 27 days a year camping, tackle football every night and games on Sunday, I am in 6th grade school which they load you with homework, I am in band and I play trumpet plus have three concerts a year, weekly piano lessons+practice each night+I have two concerts a year, clubs through school (snowflake, and video club.) I also enjoy computers, books, and roller blading. We also go to a church 50 miles from home, so we don't get home till 1 in the afternoon. I also played soccer. I am also in swimming lessons. I also have to find time for all of the other normal kid stuff (sleep overs, time together, theme parks, vacations and above all of this, time with my family. Whether it is woodstacking or planting trees and other not so fun stuff.)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allan D Grimes".

Allan Douglas Grimes  
KB9TQP

November 21, 1998

Dear FCC,

I am nine years old.  
I studied very hard to get a  
novice license all this year. I  
don't think you should make it harder  
to get. People have other stuff  
to do. Here are some of the things  
I do:

1. soccer
2. football and in football there is fundraising
3. school and homework
4. Girl Scouts + fundraising
5. Piano lessons + practice each - 2 concerts a year
6. Clarinet + practice each night
7. I go to church - I get home at 9:00 pm
8. swimming lessons
9. Ozzie Club (reading club)
10. job, work, and chores
11. Reflections - Reflections is for talents

From Tara Grimes  
KB9TQT

P.S. I hope you don't make  
it harder.

November 28, 2000

Dear FCC,

I am 8 years old and studying for my theory for Novice. I passed my 5 WPM test. The written test is hard for me, but I know I can pass soon. I have tried 12 times so far.

Here are other things that keep me busy too.

1. soccer
2. school & homework
3. piano lessons & practice every night
4. swimming lessons
5. Reflection (F.A. program)
6. Cub Scouts and fundraising
7. Ozzie Reading Club
8. church
9. I read
10. Listen to radio
11. I play with games & toys
12. help everyone

Sincerely,  
Brant Grimes